AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the present three (3) sheets of drawings containing FIGS. 1-4 with the three (3) replacement sheets of drawings containing those same drawing figures.

REMARKS

The drawings and specification are amended herein to reflect amendments made during prosecution of U.S. Patent Application No. 11/743,541, which had a nearly identical specification and drawings. The amendments to the drawings and specification were made in the previous application in response to objections made in the Office Action dated January 2, 2008. Applicant hereby amends the drawings and specification in order to obviate any similar objections in the present case.

Applicant also amends the claims as shown in the listing of claims.

Amendments to the Drawings

In U.S. Patent Application No. 11/743,541, the drawings were objected to because reference numeral 76 was not pointing at the wedge ring, but to a space above the wedge ring. In replacement FIGS. 2 and 3, reference numeral 76 now points to the wedge ring rather than to a space above the wedge ring.

In U.S. Patent Application No. 11/743,541, the drawings were objected to because "28 being a vent and 30 being a drain does not make sense". In replacement FIG. 1, reference numerals 28 and 30 have been deleted. Likewise, the only reference to reference numerals 28 and 30 has been removed from of the specification. See below regarding amendments to the specification.

In U.S. Patent Application No. 11/743,541, the drawings were further objected to because reference numeral 108 did not point to a stem bearing, as indicated in the specification. The drawings were also objected to because reference numeral 106 was not mentioned in the specification. The Office Action noted that reference numeral 106 in FIG. 2 appears to point to the stem bearing

referenced in the specification. In replacement FIG. 2, reference numeral 108 has been deleted. Likewise, the only reference to reference numeral 108 in the specification has been changed to reference numeral 106. See below regarding amendments to the specification.

In addition to the drawing amendments described above, in replacement FIG. 2, reference numerals 88 and 90 have been corrected to conform with the specification. In replacement FIG. 3, reference numerals 78, 82 and 84 have been corrected to conform with the specification. In replacement FIG. 4, reference numerals 56, 58 and 70 have been corrected to conform with the specification.

Applicant submits that the replacement drawings, as revised, do not introduce new matter into the present application, but instead simply conform the drawings to the corresponding description in the specification.

Amendments to the Specification

In U.S. Patent Application No. 11/743,541, the specification was objected to as not conforming with the drawings. The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1 was amended such that: (1) reference to "a vent device 28" and "a drain device 30" was deleted, and "(2) reference to "plug 38" was corrected to read "thrust bearing 38", in conformance with the drawings. The paragraph beginning on page 13, line 18 was amended such that: "stem bearing 108" was corrected to read "stem bearing 106", in conformance with the drawings.

The same amendments are included herein. Applicant submits that the foregoing amendments to the specification do not introduce new matter into the

present application, but instead simply conform the description in the specification to the corresponding elements depicted in the drawings.

Amendments to the Claims

The claims are amended to provide clarity and remove certain limitations. Independent claims 1, 16 and 18 have each been amended to recite lip members with lower portions that are flexible and have exterior sloped surfaces. Each independent claim also defines the ***exterior sloped surfaces*** of the lip members as being rotatable outwardly to ***extend*** contact areas between the lip members and the bonnet and valve stem, respectively. The amendments to claims 1, 16 and 18 are fully supported in the specification at, for example, paragraph 0034, which states:

> The exterior sloped surfaces 64, 74 of the lower portions 62, 72 are flexible and are adapted to ensure that when the contact pressure is applied against the first and second lip members 50, 52, the lower portions 62, 72 of the first and second lip members 50, 52 rotate outwardly to create an airtight tight seal and to increase areas of sealing contact. In order to keep the contact stress within the optimal range, the lower portions 62, 72 are uniquely shaped to ensure that when internal pressure is increased, ***the lower portions 62, 72 rotate to extend the surface areas of contact***. This unique design allows the resulting contact stress to be limited and guarantees that the performance of the sealing system is continually maintained throughout its life span.

An embodiment of lip members having exterior sloped surfaces 64, 74 is shown, for example, in FIG. 4. Also, original claim 5 recited "The sealing system of claim 1 wherein the first and second lip members have upper portions and lower portions, and wherein the lower portions are flexible and have exterior sloped surfaces adapted to ensure that when the contact pressure by the wedge ring

against the lip members is applied, the lower portions of the first and second lip members rotate outwardly to increase the seal." No new matter is being added.

* * * * *

Please enter the foregoing amendments prior to a first Office Action on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at 312-775-8096 if there are any questions.

Please charge any additional fees, and credit any overpayment, incurred in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 9, 2008